United Nations CTOC/COP/2018/L.1

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Distr.: Limited
15 October 2018

Original: English

Ninth session
Vienna, 15–19 October 2018

Draft report

Rapporteur: Maite Fernández García (Argentina)

I. Organizational matters

A. Opening of the session

1. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime held its ninth session in Vienna from 15 to 19 October 2018. During the session, 10 meetings were held, including [xx] meetings of the Committee of the Whole. The Working Group on International Cooperation held two meetings on 16 October 2018.

2. At the first, second and third meetings of the session, on 15 and 16 October 2018, opening statements were made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the representatives of Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Nigeria (on behalf of the African Group), China (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States), Brazil (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), and the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and its member States and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, San Marino, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine). Statements were also made by the Minister of Justice of Italy, the Minister of Police of South Africa, the Prosecutor General of Egypt, the Attorney General of the Sudan, the Vice-Minister for Constitutional Affairs, Reform, Deregulation and Justice of Austria, the Vice-Minister of Justice of Cuba, the Secretary of State for Justice of Angola, the State Secretary of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Legal Adviser of the Minister of Interior of Qatar, the Undersecretary for the Relations of the Holy See with States, the Deputy Minister of Justice of Namibia, the Vice-Minister of Interior of Guatemala, and the Deputy Chief of Staff, Security and Defence of Honduras. Further statements were made by Mexico, Turkey, Canada, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, China, Morocco, Indonesia, Peru, Germany, Brazil, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Japan, Australia, Colombia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Syria, as well as by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

V.18-06654 (E)

Please recycle

B. Election of officers

3. At its first session, the Conference had decided that the offices of President and Rapporteur should rotate among the regional groups and that such rotation should take place in alphabetical order. Accordingly, at the ninth session, the President of the Conference was nominated by the Western European and other States, while the Rapporteur was nominated by the Latin American and Caribbean States.

4. At its first meeting, on 15 October 2018, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the Conference elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Senén Florensa Palau (Spain)

Vice-Presidents: Maria Assunta Accili Sabbatini (Italy)
Usama Alnashy (Iraq)
Alicia Guadalupe Buenrostro Massieu (Mexico)
Lorena-Maria Feruta (Romania)
Ondrej Gavalec (Slovakia)
Faouzia Mebarki (Algeria)
Vivian N. R. Okeke (Nigeria)
Abu Zafar (Bangladesh)

Rapporteur: Maite Fernández García (Argentina)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. At its first meeting, on 15 October 2018, the Conference adopted the provisional agenda contained in document CTOC/COP/2018/1.

6. In its decision 5/2, the Conference decided to establish the Committee of the Whole, the membership of which would be open to all States parties and signatories to the Organized Crime Convention, which would meet during the sessions of the Conference when the President of the Conference so decided to perform such functions as may be requested by the Conference in order to assist the Conference in dealing with its agenda and to facilitate its work and to consider specific items of the agenda and submit its comments and recommendations, including draft resolutions and draft decisions, to the Conference for consideration. On 14 June 2018, the extended Bureau approved the organization of work of the ninth session by silence procedure and noted that, in accordance with past practice, the plenary meeting would be suspended for the purpose of convening the Committee of the Whole.

D. Participation

7. The ninth session of the Conference was attended by representatives of 117 States parties to the Convention and a regional economic integration organization party to the Convention. Also attending the session were observers for one State signatory to the Convention and one non-signatory observer State, an entity maintaining a permanent observer mission to the United Nations, Secretariat units, United Nations bodies, institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and relevant non-governmental organizations not having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that had applied for observer status.

8. The list of participants is contained in document [CTOC/COP/2018/INF/2/Rev.1].

9. Rules 14–17 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, concerning the participation of observers, were brought to the attention of participants in the session.

E. Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials

10. Under rule 18 of the rules of procedure, as amended by the Conference in its decision 4/7, credentials of representatives of each State party are to be issued by the Head of State or Government, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or by the Permanent Representative to the United Nations of the State party in accordance with its domestic law or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. When the Conference is to consider proposals for amendments to the Convention in accordance with article 39 of the Convention and rule 62 of the rules of procedure for the Conference, the credentials are to be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State party or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization.

11. Under rule 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau is to examine the credentials of representatives of each State party and the names of the persons constituting the State party's delegation and submit its report to the Conference. Under rule 20 of the rules of procedure, pending a decision of the Bureau on their credentials, representatives are entitled to participate provisionally in the session. Any representative of a State party to whose admission another State party has made objection is to be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives until the Bureau has reported and the Conference has given its decision.

12. The Bureau of the Conference considered the issue of credentials at its 1st, [2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings], on 15, [16, 17, 18 and 19] October 2018. At the [10th] meeting of the Conference, on 19 October 2018, the President, on behalf of the Bureau, informed the Conference that, of the [x] States parties represented at the ninth session, [xx] States parties had complied with the credentials requirements and [xx] States parties had not complied with the credentials requirements.

13. The Conference adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials at its [...] meeting, on [...] October 2018.